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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/709,675

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Daniel C. Conrad

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7590

11/16/2007

MCGARRY BAIR PC

32 Market Ave. SW

SUITE 500

GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503

EXAMINER

BLAN, NICOLE R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1792

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/16/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/709,675

**Applicant(s)**

CONRAD ET AL.

**Examiner**

Nicole Blan

**Art Unit**

1792

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-20 and 22-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-20 and 22-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. The cancellation of claims 1 and 21, the addition of claims 30-31, and the amendments to the claims filed on October 25, 2007 are acknowledged.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. Claims 30, 2, 4, 15, 19, 31, 22, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore (U.S. Patent 2,767,944, hereafter '944), in view of Pool (U.S. Patent 3,426,986, hereafter '986), and further in view of Bader (U.S. Patent 6,055,998, hereafter '998).

Claims 30-31: '944 teaches a household clothes washer [also referred to as a household appliance] [col. 1, lines 15-17] for use in a home environment having a floor [inherent trait of an appliance for use in a house] for supporting the household clothes washer [or appliance] comprising: a cabinet [(1), Fig. 1, col. 2, lines 47-48]; a wash basket [(6), Fig. 1, col. 2, lines 26-31] mounted within the cabinet for rotational motion [col. 2, lines 31-36] [the wash basket

corresponds to a vibration generator located within the cabinet]; a foot [(15), Fig. 1, col. 2, lines 63-64] extending from the cabinet for supporting the cabinet on the floor; and a boot mounted to the foot [(23), Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 1-3]. '944 also teaches that the boot is made from an elastomeric material [col. 3, lines 13-44]. It does not teach that the boot is deformable between a first physical shape corresponding to an isolating condition, where the boot substantially isolates the floor from forces generated by the rotation of the basket and acting through the foot, and a second physical shape corresponding to a non-isolating condition, where the boot substantially passes the forces through the foot and into the floor.

However, '986 teaches a solid-body boot [(13), Fig. 1] that is deformable [see Figs. 2-3; area M is capable of moving closer to area L when in a compressed state indicating that it is able to deform] [col. 2, lines 39-45] between a first physical shape corresponding to an isolating condition [Fig. 2, col. 2, lines 17-19], where the boot substantially isolates the floor from forces generated by the rotation of the basket and acting through the foot, and a second physical shape corresponding to a non-isolating condition [Fig. 3, col. 2, lines 20-23], where the boot substantially passes the forces through the foot and into the floor. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the boot of '986 as the particular boot of '944 with a reasonable expectation of success because '986 teaches a suitable means to isolate the force generated by the rotation of the basket or by a vibration generator.

They do not teach that the foot is capable of being removed from the boot. However, '998 disclosed that the foot is capable of being removed from the boot [col. 1, lines 43-54]. It teaches that a need exists for an after market shock absorbing fixture that can be readily attached

to the feet of existing devices [i.e. the foot can be removed from the boot and vice versa]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the removable boot of '998 as the particular boot of '944 with a reasonable expectation of success because '998 teaches that it is important to offer the shock absorbing fixtures that are adaptable to fit on devices that were previously purchased.

Claim 2: '944, '986, and '998 teach the limitations of claim 30 above. They do not explicitly teach the household clothes washer having a predetermined range of motion that defines the operational condition of the boot. The Examiner takes Official Notice that it is common knowledge to one of ordinary skill in the art of operating conditions for a washing machine that the basket would have a predetermined range of motion that is inherent to defining the operational conditions of the boot. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the predetermined range of motion would lead to defining the operational conditions of the washing machine.

Claim 4: '944, '986, and '998 teach the limitations of claim 30 above. '986 also teaches the household clothes washer according to claim 1, wherein the boot is operable between a natural state [Fig. 2, col. 2, lines 17-19] and a collapsed state [Fig. 3, col. 2, lines 20-23], with the natural state corresponding to the isolating operational condition and the collapsed state corresponding to the non-isolating condition.

Claims 15 and 22: '944, '986, and '998 teach the limitations of claims 30 and 31 above, respectively. '998 teaches a boot [(26), Fig. 6, col. 3, lines 52-55] comprising a sole with a bottom surface for contacting the floor [see Fig. 6 below, the bottom portion of (26)], and an upper extending from the sole [see Fig. 6 below, the upper portion of (26)] and defining a foot

recess [see Fig. 6 below, the inner portion of (26) is the recess] in which the foot [(38), Fig. 6] is received to mount the boot to the foot in order to isolate the forces generated by the appliance.

See the picture below.

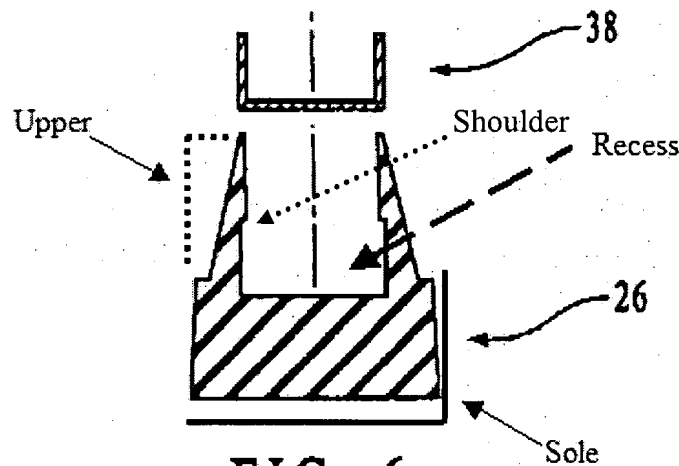


FIG. 6

Claim 19: '944, '986, and '998 teach the limitations of claim 30 above. '944 also teaches the household clothes washer according to claim 1, wherein the boot is made from a resilient material [col. 3, lines 13-14, 25-30, and 56-59].

Claim 28: '944, '986, and '998 teach the limitations of claim 22 above. They do not explicitly teach the household clothes washer having a predetermined range of motion that defines the operational condition of the boot. The Examiner takes Official Notice that it is common knowledge to one of ordinary skill in the art of operating conditions for a washing machine that the basket would have a predetermined range of motion that is inherent to defining the operational conditions of the boot. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

art that the predetermined range of motion would lead to defining the operational conditions of the washing machine.

5. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '944, '986, and '998 as applied to claim 19 above, and further in view of Obata et al. (U.S. Patent 5,029,458, hereafter '458).

Claim 20: '944, '986, and '998 teach the limitations of claim 19 above. They do not teach that the basket rotates about a horizontal axis. The Examiner takes Official Notice that it is common knowledge to one of ordinary skill in the art that a horizontal axis washer can be used in place of a vertical axis washer and that a damper would be needed to isolate the forces produced from both of the machines. See, for example, '458, that teaches a horizontal washer [abstract] yielding rubber legs [(1a), Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 63-65]. It is common knowledge to one of ordinary skill in the art that rubber is used to dampen vibrations, such as those produced from the rotating basket. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a horizontal axis washer interchangeably with a vertical axis washer in order to dampen the vibrations from the baskets by utilizing rubber boots.

6. Claims 3 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '944, '986, and '998, and in view of Johnson (U.S. Patent 6,141,995, hereafter '995).

Claims 3 and 29: '944, '986, and '998 teach the limitations of claims 2 and 28 above, respectively. They do not teach a washing machine wherein the boot is in the non-isolating condition when the magnitude of the forces acting on the washer as the basket rotates about a horizontal axis is such that the top of the cabinet moves through an arc no greater than 2 inches. However, '995 teaches that by making mounts or bases for a machine to sit on from a resilient

material, such as, plastic [col. 3, lines 14-17], it will be flexible enough to move from the force acting on the machine, but it also able to restrict the motion because the material will dampen the force [col. 4, lines 13-25]. It is such that resilient material of '995 allows the boot of '986 to operate in a non-isolating and dampening condition when the magnitude of force increases; thus, minimizing movement through the cabinet. The Examiner takes Official Notice that washing machines installed in small spaces should minimize any movement to avoid damage to surrounding parts. Therefore, it would be rendered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that mounting an oscillating machine on a flexible mount would limit the movement of the case by dampening the forces.

7. Claims 5-7, 14, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '944, '986, and '998, and in view of Healy (U.S. PGPub 2005/0081405A1, hereafter '405).

Claim 5: '944, '986, and '998 teach the limitations of claim 2 above. They do not teach the boot of a household clothes washer comprising a snubber spaced above the floor when the boot is in the natural state and compressed against the floor when the boot is in the compressed state in order to isolate the force created by the appliance. However, '405 teaches a snubber [lug, pg. 2, paragraph 28, lines 1-3] [(31), Figs. 3A and 3B, pg. 3, paragraph 38, lines 3-5] spaced above the floor in the natural state [Fig. 3A, pg. 2, paragraph 27, lines 4-7] and compressed against the floor [Fig. 3B, pg. 2, paragraph 27, lines 7-13 and pg. 3, paragraph 38, lines 5-14] so as to isolate the force created to prevent walking [slipping, pg. 3, paragraph 38, lines 11-14]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of isolating forces that the snubber as taught by '405 could be used as the snubber of '944 since, '405 teaches that it isolates force and prevents slipping.

Claim 6: '944, '986, '998 and '405 teach the limitations of claim 5 above. They do not teach a household clothes washer according to claim 5, wherein the boot comprises a sole with a bottom surface for contacting the floor, and an upper extending from the sole and defining a foot recess in which the foot is received to mount the boot to the foot. However, '998 teaches a boot [(26), Fig. 6, col. 3, lines 52-55] comprising a sole with a bottom surface for contacting the floor [see Fig. 6 below, the bottom portion of (26)], and an upper extending from the sole [see Fig. 6 below, the upper portion of (26)] and defining a foot recess [see Fig. 6 below, the inner portion of (26) is the recess] in which the foot [(38), Fig. 6] is received to mount the boot to the foot in order to isolate the forces generated by the appliance. See the picture below.

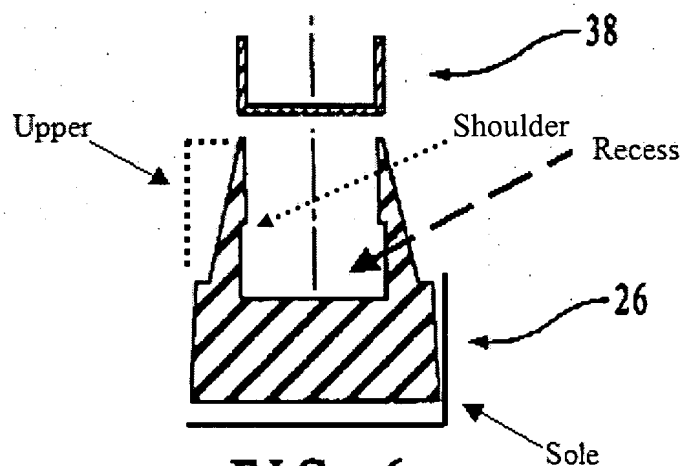


FIG. 6

Claim 7: '944, '986, '998, and '405 teach the limitations of claim 6 above. It is not explicitly taught that the sole comprises a snubber recess that opens onto the bottom surface, with the snubber extending into the recess. However, '405 teaches the snubber extending into the recess as explained in claim 5 above while '998 teaches the boot as explained in claim 6 above in order to isolate the force through the fixture. It would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art of isolating forces that the snubber as taught by '405 could be used as the boot of '998 since, '405 teaches that it isolates force and prevents slipping.

Claim 14 is rejected over '944, '986, and '998 as applied to claim 30 above and for the reasons in claim 5 above.

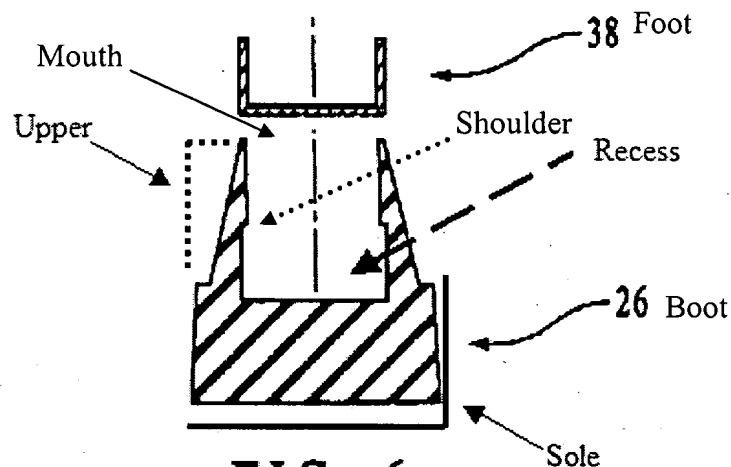
Claim 23 is rejected over '944, '986, '998, and '405 as applied to claim 22 above and for the reasons applied to claim 5 above.

8. Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '944, '986, '998, and '405, and further in view of Johnson (U.S. Patent 3,601,345, hereafter '345).

Claim 8: '944, '986, '998, and '405 teach the limitations of claim 7 above. They do not teach a stiffener in the sole. However, '345 teaches a stiffener [(14 and 15), Fig. 5] in the sole [(11), Fig. 5] [col. 2, lines 26-40] in order to provide the correct strength to the boot in order to dissipate the vibrations caused by the machine. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of isolating force that the stiffener as taught by '345 could be used as the stiffener in '998 since, '345 teaches that it isolates force by providing the correct strength.

Claim 9: '944, '986, '998, '405, and '345 teach the limitations of claim 8 above. They do not teach a stiffener that circumscribes the snubber recess. However, '345 teaches a stiffener [(14 and 15), Fig. 5] that circumscribes the recess [area below the rivet (19) in Fig. 4, col. 2, lines 63-70] to act as a vibration insulator [col. 2, line 56-58]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of isolating force that the stiffener as taught by '345 circumscribing the recess could be used as the stiffener in '998 since, '345 teaches that by circumscribing the recess it isolates the vibrations.

Claim 10: '944, '986, '998, '405, and '345 teach the limitations of claim 8 above. '998 also teaches a washer according to claim 9, wherein the upper [see Fig. 6 below, the upper portion of (26)] terminates in a resilient shoulder [see Fig. 6 below] defining a mouth [see Fig. 6 below] for the foot recess [see Fig. 6 below, the inner portion of (26) is the recess], with the mouth having a portion smaller than the foot such that when the foot passes through the mouth, the resilient shoulder is initially deflected and when the foot is received in the recess, the resilient shoulder overlies a portion of the foot to aid in mounting the boot to the foot. See Figure below. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of isolating force that the boot as taught by '998 could be used as the boot of '986 since, '988 teaches that it is a shock absorbing fixture.



9. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '944, '986, '998, '405, and '345 as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of Midcap (U.S. Patent 5,713,382, hereafter '382).

Claim 11: '944, '986, '998, '405, and '345 teach the limitations of claim 10 above. They do not teach a retaining element for retaining the foot beneath the shoulder. However, '382 teaches a retaining element [(450), Fig. 4, col. 4, lines 44-54] for retaining the foot within the upper portion of the boot [(430), Fig. 4, col. 4, lines 44-46]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the retaining element as taught by '382 could be used to retain the foot inside the boot of '986 since, '382 teaches that the foot is maintained in the boot.

10. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '944, '986, '998, '405, '345, and '382 as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Levasseur (U.S. Patent 4,947,882, hereafter '882).

Claim 12: '944, '986, '998, '405, '345, and '382 teach the limitations of claim 11 above. They do not teach using a split element that circumscribes the mouth as the retaining element. However, '882 teaches a split retaining element [(13), Fig. 2, col. 2, lines 3-6] that circumscribes the mouth [col. 2, lines 66-68 and col. 3, lines 1-5] in order to retain the foot [(10), Fig. 2] inside the boot [(1), Fig. 2] [col. 2, lines 47-66]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the retaining element as taught by '882 could be used to retain the foot inside the boot of '986 since, '882 teaches that the foot is maintained in the boot.

11. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '944, '986, '998, '405, '345, '382, and '882 as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Greene et al. (U.S. Patent 6,131,593, hereafter '593).

Claim 13: '944, '986, '998, '405, '345, '382, and '882 teach the limitations of claim 12 above. They do not teach a washing machine comprising a bearing plate positioned within the foot recess and supporting the foot relative to the boot when the foot is received within the foot

recess. However, '593 teaches a bearing plate [(60), Fig. 7, col. 4, lines 12-16] positioned with the foot recess [(24), Fig. 7] that supports the foot [(14), Fig. 1] relative to the boot [(12), Fig. 7] when the foot is received within the foot recess in order to prevent damage to the boot from the foot. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the bearing plate as taught by '593 could be used to support the foot inside the boot of '986 since, '593 teaches that a bearing plate is used to prevent damage to the boot from the foot.

12. Claims 16 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '944, '986, and '998, and in view of '345.

Claims 16 and 24: '944, '986, and '998 teach the limitations of claims 15 and 22 above, respectively. They do not teach a stiffener in the sole. However, '345 teaches a stiffener [(14 and 15), Fig. 5] in the sole [(11), Fig. 5] [col. 2, lines 26-40] in order to provide the correct strength to the boot in order to dissipate the vibrations caused by the machine. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of isolating force that the stiffener as taught by '345 could be used as the stiffener in '998 since, '345 teaches that it isolates force by providing the correct strength.

13. Claims 17 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '944, '986, and '998, and in view of '382.

Claims 17 and 25: '944, '986, and '998 teach the limitations of claims 15 and 22 above, respectively. They do not teach a retaining element for retaining the foot beneath the shoulder. However, '382 teaches a retaining element [(450), Fig. 4, col. 4, lines 44-54] for retaining the foot within the upper portion of the boot [(430), Fig. 4, col. 4, lines 44-46]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the retaining element as taught by '382 could be

used to retain the foot inside the boot of '986 since, '382 teaches that the foot is maintained in the boot.

14. Claims 18 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '944, '986, and '998, and in view of '593.

Claims 18 and 27: '944, '986, and '998 teach the limitations of claim 15 and 22 above, respectively. They do not teach a washing machine comprising a bearing plate positioned within the foot recess and supporting the foot relative to the boot when the foot is received within the foot recess. However, '593 teaches a bearing plate [(60), Fig. 7, col. 4, lines 12-16] positioned with the foot recess [(24), Fig. 7] that supports the foot [(14), Fig. 1] relative to the boot [(12), Fig. 7] when the foot is received within the foot recess in order to prevent damage to the boot from the foot. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the bearing plate as taught by '593 could be used to support the foot inside the boot of '986 since, '593 teaches that a bearing plate is used to prevent damage to the boot from the foot.

15. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '944, '986, '998, and '382 as applied to claim 25 above, and further in view of '882.

Claim 26: '944, '986, '998, and '382 teach the limitations of claim 25 above. They do not teach using a split element that circumscribes the mouth as the retaining element. However, '882 teaches a split retaining element [(13), Fig. 2, col. 2, lines 3-6] that circumscribes the mouth [col. 2, lines 66-68 and col. 3, lines 1-5] in order to retain the foot [(10), Fig. 2] inside the boot [(1), Fig. 2] [col. 2, lines 47-66]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the retaining element as taught by '882 could be used to retain the foot inside the boot of '986 since, '882 teaches that the foot is maintained in the boot.

*Response to Arguments*

16. Applicant's arguments filed October 25, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

17. Most of the arguments in the current response are identical to the ones in the immediately prior action mailed August 24, 2007. The applicants' are invited to refer to the examiner's response for those arguments in the office action mailed on October 12, 2007.

18. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually (see Bader), one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

19. In response to the applicants' arguments pertaining to a solid-body boot, '986 does in fact teach a solid-body boot. All of the materials are solids which constitutes the boot being solid. The meaning of solid-body does not exclude what the examiner is referencing in '986. Furthermore, there is no support for the interpretation of what a solid-body is, is available in the specification. Therefore, the examiner is not treating it as such.

20. The Examiner has given official notice that it is common knowledge to one of ordinary skill in the art of operating conditions for a washing machine that the basket would have a predetermined range of motion that is inherent to defining the operational conditions of the boot and a horizontal axis washer can be used in place of a vertical axis washer and that a damper would be needed to isolate the forces produced from both of the machines, as referenced by '458. Applicant has not timely challenged the official notice, and therefore noticed fact is taken as

admitted prior art. Further, such has been demonstrated by the references already of record in the case. See, in particular, those cited in the rejection mailed May 18, 2007. See MPEP 2144.03C.

***Conclusion***

21. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Shiffler (U.S. Patent 6,754,934) and Song et al. (U.S. PGPub 2005/0081577).
22. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicole Blan whose telephone number is 571-270-1838. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8-5 and alternating Fridays 8-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Cleveland can be reached on 571-272-1418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NRB



MICHAEL CLEVELAND  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER